

WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2020

1. Opening Activities

1.1 Zoom Meeting Instructions

Mrs. Huck shared with meeting participants the parameters for participating and making public comment during the meeting.

1.2 Call to Order

The special meeting of the Warren County School District Board of School Directors was called to order by Mrs. Zariczny, President, at 6:15 p.m. in the Board Room of Central Office, 6820 Market Street, Russell, Pennsylvania.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Zariczny led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Roll Call

Present:

Mr. Joseph Colosimo
Mrs. Elizabeth Huffman
Mr. Jeffrey Labesky
Mr. Kevin Lindvay
Mr. Paul Mangione

Mrs. Marcy Morgan
Mrs. Mary Passinger
Mr. Arthur Stewart
Mrs. Donna Zariczny

Others Present:

Mrs. Amy Stewart, Superintendent; Mr. Gary Weber, Director of Administrative Support Services; Mr. James Grosch, Director of Business Services; Mr. Chris Byham, Solicitor; Mrs. Ruth Huck, Board Secretary; Mr. Eric Mineweaser, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Dr. Patricia Hawley, Director of Pupil Services; Mr. Brian Ferry, Times Observer and approximately 280 members of the public in attendance.

1.5 Reading of the Mission Statement - Mr. Arthur Stewart

The mission of the Warren County School District is to educationally empower all students to think critically and solve problems through a rigorous curriculum that will provide them with the skills necessary to graduate and pursue a career of their interest.

1.6 Reading of the WCSD/PSBA Principles of Governance and Leadership - Mrs. Elizabeth Huffman

Pennsylvania school boards are committed to providing every student the opportunity to grow and achieve. The actions taken by the Board ultimately have both short and long-term impact in the classroom. Therefore, school directors collectively and individually will...

The Warren County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs, activities or employment practices and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Gary Weber, Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator at 6820 Market Street, Russell, PA 16345 or (814) 723-6900.

Advocate Earnestly

- Promote public education as the keystone of democracy
- Engage the community by seeking input, building support networks, and generating action
- Champion public education by engaging members of local, state and federal legislative bodies

1.7 President's Announcements

Mrs. Zariczny announced:

1. The Board held an executive session via conference call on Friday, March 20, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. to receive legal advice from the Solicitor regarding virtual meetings.
2. The Board met on Wednesday, March 25, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. for the sole purpose of testing the functionality of Zoom (virtual meeting platform), and no deliberation of agency business occurred during the test.
3. Prior to meeting this evening, the Board met in executive session to discuss personnel issues.

2. New Business

2.1 Policy 2350 - Waive Electronic Participation Limits

Policy #2350 -
Waive Electronic
Participation
Limits
Approved
9-0-0

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors, until such time as schools are re-opened, waives any Policy 2350 provision limiting the number of meetings or executive sessions a Board Member can participate in electronically.

Motion by Arthur Stewart, second by Marcy Morgan.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Joseph Colosimo, Elizabeth Huffman, Jeffrey Labesky, Paul Mangione, Marcy Morgan, Mary Passinger, Arthur Stewart, Donna Zariczny, Kevin Lindvay

2.2 Policy 2410 - Committee Meetings

Policy 2410 -
Committee
Meetings
Temporary
Suspension
Approved
9-0-0

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors temporarily (during the COVID-19 closure period) suspends the Policy 2410 requirement for public comment during committee meetings.

Motion by Arthur Stewart, second by Joseph Colosimo.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Joseph Colosimo, Elizabeth Huffman, Jeffrey Labesky, Paul Mangione, Marcy Morgan, Mary Passinger, Arthur Stewart, Donna Zariczny, Kevin Lindvay

2.3 Financial Reports

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the Financial Reports and authorizes the release of funds in payment of the listing of bills; further, that a copy as presented be submitted for audit.

Financial Reports
Approved
9-0-0

Motion by Joseph Colosimo, second by Marcy Morgan.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Joseph Colosimo, Elizabeth Huffman, Jeffrey Labesky, Paul Mangione, Marcy Morgan, Mary Passinger, Arthur Stewart, Donna Zariczny, Kevin Lindvay

2.4 Head Start Memorandum of Understanding for 2020-2021 SY - CIT - Mr. Joseph Colosimo

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the Head Start Memorandum of Understanding for the 2020-2021 school year, as presented

Head Start
Memorandum of
Understanding for
2020-2021 SY
Approved
9-0-0

Motion by Mary Passinger, second by Joseph Colosimo.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Joseph Colosimo, Elizabeth Huffman, Jeffrey Labesky, Paul Mangione, Marcy Morgan, Mary Passinger, Arthur Stewart, Donna Zariczny, Kevin Lindvay

2.5 2020-2021 Youngsville Middle/High School Classroom Lease (2) - IU5 Early Intervention Program

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves leasing two classrooms at Youngsville Middle/High School during the 2020-2021 school year to the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit's Early Intervention Program, as presented.

2020-2021
Youngsville
Middle/High
School Classroom
Lease (2) - IU5
Early Intervention
Program
Approved
9-0-0

Motion by Joseph Colosimo, second by Mary Passinger.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Joseph Colosimo, Elizabeth Huffman, Jeffrey Labesky, Paul Mangione, Marcy Morgan, Mary Passinger, Arthur Stewart, Donna Zariczny, Kevin Lindvay

2.6 Revised School Calendar

The revised school calendar was removed from the agenda due to the Governor's announcement that schools would be closed indefinitely.

2.7 School Information App

School
Information App
Approved
9-0-0

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the agreement with SchoolInfoApp, LLC to provide a communication system that allows the District the functionality to send bulk communication and emergency information. This solution offers additional functionality for administrators and teachers to communicate with parents and students. This would be a three year commitment for the service with an annual fee of \$15,550 and a one-time set-up fee of \$1650 that would provide the use of mobile device and web applications, a voice dial, text (SMS) and email mass notification system, as presented.

Motion by Arthur Stewart, second by Joseph Colosimo.

Public Comment

Jonathan Keefer, Warren, PA, asked if the App would be implemented in this school year or next. Mrs. Stewart replied it would happen as soon as possible.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Joseph Colosimo, Elizabeth Huffman, Jeffrey Labesky, Paul Mangione, Marcy Morgan, Mary Passinger, Arthur Stewart, Donna Zariczny, Kevin Lindvay

2.8 Laptop Purchase - One to One Devices

Laptop Purchase -
One to One
Devices
Approved
9-0-0

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the laptop purchase of one to one devices as presented.

Motion by Joseph Colosimo, second by Marcy Morgan.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Joseph Colosimo, Elizabeth Huffman, Jeffrey Labesky, Paul Mangione, Marcy Morgan, Mary Passinger, Arthur Stewart, Donna Zariczny, Kevin Lindvay

2.9 Purchase of Laptops Grades 3-5

Purchase of
Laptops Grades 3-5
Approved
9-0-0

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the purchase of laptops for Grades 3-5, as presented.

Motion by Mary Passinger, second by Kevin Lindvay.

Public Comment

Shane Kellogg - Sugar Grove, PA - wanted to know how many computers will be purchased and if more techs will be hired.

Shelly Fitch - Sheffield, PA - What is the timeline to deploy the devices?

Mrs. Zariczny reminded the public the Board will not answer questions, but will only receive comment from the public.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Joseph Colosimo, Elizabeth Huffman, Jeffrey Labesky, Paul Mangione, Marcy Morgan, Mary Passinger, Arthur Stewart, Donna Zariczny, Kevin Lindvay

2.10 Summer Lunch Program Waiver

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors directs Administration to apply for a waiver under the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) nunc pro tunc effective March 14, 2020. Furthermore, the Board of School Directors directs the Administration to add and/or delete sites over the course of the program for the duration of the current waiver, unless extended.

Summer Lunch
Program Waiver
Approved
9-0-0

Motion by Joseph Colosimo, second by Arthur Stewart.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Joseph Colosimo, Elizabeth Huffman, Jeffrey Labesky, Paul Mangione, Marcy Morgan, Mary Passinger, Arthur Stewart, Donna Zariczny, Kevin Lindvay

2.11 Stipulation of Discipline - Student #26

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors approves the Stipulation of Discipline for Student #26, as presented.

Stipulation of
Discipline -
Student #26
Approved
8-1-0

Motion by Arthur Stewart, second by Marcy Morgan.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Joseph Colosimo, Elizabeth Huffman, Paul Mangione, Marcy Morgan, Mary Passinger, Arthur Stewart, Donna Zariczny, Kevin Lindvay

No: Jeffrey Labesky

2.12 Superintendent – Signatory Authority – Employment MOU’s

MOTION: That the Board of School Directors authorizes but does not obligate the Superintendent and the Board President or Board Vice President to enter into any Memorandum of Agreement with any of the District’s collective bargaining unit’s representatives in order to address labor matters affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, contingent upon the form and substance of the Memorandum being reviewed and approved by the District Labor Counsel.

Superintendent –
Signatory
Authority –
Employment
MOU’s
Approved
9-0-0

Motion by Mary Passinger, second by Arthur Stewart.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yes: Joseph Colosimo, Elizabeth Huffman, Jeffrey Labesky, Paul Mangione, Marcy Morgan, Mary Passinger, Arthur Stewart, Donna Zariczny, Kevin Lindvay

2.13 Other

Mr. Stewart asked if the Superintendent needed any action by the Board to implement the continuity of education plan as directed by the State and if there is any need for special board meetings in order to provide decisions and tools necessary to meet the continuity of education requirement.

Mrs. Stewart outlined the phases that will be taking place. Tomorrow packets will be delivered to students via school bus routes which are for review and enrichment. In order to

shift from enrichment to instruction the MOU motion passed tonight was important to accomplish that phase. Teachers were surveyed to see what their capacity was to begin to develop lessons for students both online and offline; what they are able to do, confident in doing, the kind of training they need, etc. She stated she should be fine getting to the April 13th board meeting.

Phase II the District will be connecting teachers with their own students. Mrs. Stewart was unsure how long that will take. Teachers need trained on equipment and technology that may be unfamiliar. Some have limited or no access from home.

Phase III will be actual instruction.

Mr. Stewart is concerned with public relations, getting information to the community and one place to do that is the public board meetings where the public has opportunity for comment. To acknowledge and discuss input has a remarkable benefit for the Board and community. Committee meetings are a great venue and in addition, Mr. Stewart worries about the administration taking on a lot of the decision-making and then suffering recrimination afterward. At some point down the road there will some pieces to pick up, either legal or contractual, because of the crisis. Normally the Board shoulders that responsibility and makes those decisions so administration is not left holding the bag. For example the school calendar is a Board decision or the goal of the continuity of education, the Board needs to have a dialogue about what the outcome should be, and he feels the committee venue would be the best place for all of those conversations.

Mrs. Stewart proposed a meeting on April 6th to gather input.

It was suggested an agenda be set, and only take comment on those things on the agenda at the beginning of the meeting.

Mrs. Zariczny stated she will keep the Board apprised if the officers decide to include a committee meeting prior to April 13th.

3. Closing Activities

3.1 Executive Session

There was no executive session at this time.

3.2 Adjournment

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Colosimo and seconded by Mary Passinger that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth A. Huck, Board Secretary